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ABSTRACT

As Japan takes a place as one of the world's technologically and economically advanced nations, the number of foreign students seeking to study in Japan has increased rapidly, as has the number of foreigners expressing interest in studying Japanese culture and the Japanese language. The Japanese government's program of international student exchange is still in a developmental stage and is rapidly changing in size and quality. Japan is at an important crossroads as it attempts to establish a system of foreign exchange study that will meet its goals. This paper discusses the current status of foreign student programs in Japan. The following nine areas are examined: (1) selection of university; (2) immigration and residential qualifications; (3) Japanese language study and pre-college education; (4) application and selection procedures; (5) scholarships; (6) tuition, fees, and exemption programs; (7) housing and medical care; (8) jobs and community relations; and (9) after-service for former students. Of particular note are the differences in the status and opportunities afforded to government-scholarship and non-scholarship students. Tables and figures are included. (DB)

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Foreign Students in Japan

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N O T E

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Preface

The Japanese government as well as universities and other institutions of higher learning have striven to promote educational exchanges by encouraging and supporting study by foreign students in Japan. Such efforts serve the dual purpose of improving education and research in Japan, and facilitating international understanding and cooperation between Japan and other nations. As Japan takes her place as one of the world's technologically and economically advanced nations, the number of foreign students seeking to study in Japan has increased rapidly, as has the number of foreigners expressing interest in studying Japanese culture and the Japanese language.

While proceeding cautiously by studying and reviewing the past experiences of other nations in promoting foreign student programs, the Japanese government envisages accepting approximately 100,000 students by the beginning of the 21st century. The government is putting its efforts behind a program of internationalization of Japan, whereby the formerly politically and culturally isolated island nation will gain exposure to a variety of ethnic groups within its borders. The program of international student exchange is still at the beginning of its developmental stage, and at present is rapidly changing in size and quality. Thus, Japan is an important crossroads at this time as it attempts to establish a system of foreign exchange study which will meet the nation's goals. This paper will discuss only the current situation in Japan today.

Overview of Foreign Student Programs in Japan

Those foreign students who pass the highly competitive screening process for the award of a Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (Monbusho) Scholarship, have an economically secure situation to look forward to. Those selected for this scholarship must have been initially recommended by a Japanese Embassy or Consulate in their native country or by a Japanese university. Because only 2,000 students can be accepted yearly, competition for this scholarship is very keen.

In addition to making scholarships available to qualified students, the Japanese government will provide supplementary assistance to those foreign students whose governments request such assistance. This assistance supplements that of foreign governments, which bear the expenses of tuition and other educationally related items.

For those students who fail to qualify for scholarships aid or assistance from their native countries, it is still possible to study in Japan at their own expense. However, due to the recent rise of the Japanese currency, the yen, against all other foreign currencies and the increase in commodity prices in Japan, such an option is an economically unsatisfactory one for most students.

For students who are in need of financial aid, there are a number of scholarships provided by private and local public organizations through universities. Applications for these scholarship programs can be field through the university where the student is registered. However, procedures

may differ by institution and the amount of the scholarship money available may also vary as well. The applicant should check details when applying.

The initial step someone who wishes to study in Japan must take is to decide which university he/she would like to attend. Information is available at Japanese Embassies or at their attached information and culture centers. It is also possible to write for information to the Overseas Study Information Center of the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ), which is affiliated to the Ministry of Education.

In the case of Japanese government scholarship students, the Ministry of Education reviews requests made by the scholarship students in consultation with university staff and ultimately decides where the students will enroll. The Ministry also assists foreign governments in securing placements for their scholarship students in Japanese universities or on Japanese language programs as preparation for enrollment in a university. Non-scholarship students must seek information and make application to the university of their choice without assistance from the Ministry of Education.

After having chosen and been accepted by university, the foreign student must ensure that he/she has the proper visa to study in Japan. Requirements very according to whether the student is residing in Japan or abroad. Students residing abroad must obtain information and applications for visas from a Japanese Embassy or Consulate.

Since most instruction is given in Japanese, students are encouraged to study the language prior to enrolling in a university program. Non-scholarship students have the option of studying Japanese for one year as pre-college education. On completion of this course of study, the student should apply to the university where he/she wishes to enroll. Students are recommended to take the "Examination for Non-scholarship Foreign Students" and the "Test of Japanese Language Ability (1st Level)", administered by the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ), prior to seeking admission as many institutions review the results of these examinations in selecting students.

Once enrolled in a university, the foreign student, whether scholarship and non-scholarship, may take special courses in the Japanese language or on Japanese affairs in addition to regular classes. Some universities also provide foreign student centers with a professional concealing staff who are experienced in advising foreign students on both academic and personal matters.

University residential accommodation is severely limited in Japan, and this is one of the greatest sources of concern regarding the further admission of foreign students wishing to study in Japan. While most universities make every effort to accommodate the housing needs of their foreign students, especially newcomers, the demand far exceeds the supply despite efforts by private organizations to assist the universities. Consequently, many foreign students will find it necessary to seek accommodations in private lodgings or in apartments. When necessary, students may obtain assistance in finding housing from the staff of the Foreign Student Centers.

Medical treatment is made available to foreign students regardless of

scholarship status at Japanese hospitals and clinics. The Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) will pay up to 80% of treatment costs. The student must submit an application for reimbursement through his/her university.

In addition to medical assistance, the non-scholarship foreign student may apply for certain exemptions of educational fees. "A Foreign Student Registration Form" must be submitted to the AIEJ when registering at the university in order to be considered for this exemption.

Finally, once studies are completed, and after having gone back to his/her own country, the foreign student may request a special journal or bulletin published in Japan. It is also possible for the student to return to Japan for short-term research several years after having returned to his/her country. The Japanese government will pay traveling expenses to Japan as well as a stipend during the period of research. At present, this funding is only available to former scholarship students; however, the AIEJ is considering offering this opportunity to former non-scholarship students as well.

Japanese Government Scholarship Students

The Ministry of Education customarily awards its scholarships to qualified foreign students who want to study in Japan. Students are categorized into six groups: research students, undergraduate students, Japanese language/culture studies students, teacher trainee students, technical college students, and special training school students. Tables 1 through 3 show the details of these groups (i.e., level, content, qualifications, amount of scholarship, process and procedure of recruitment and acceptance).

Students are selected for scholarships by the following methods:

(1) The Japanese Embassy or Consulate accepts scholarship applications every year. In cooperation with the foreign government concerned, the Embassy or Consulate carries out an initial screening of the applicants on the basis of paper screening, a written examination, and personal interview. After reviewing the results of the initial screening, the Embassy or Consulate may recommend a candidate to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education then refers the recommendations to a selection committee which will make a final selection of students to be awarded scholarships and admission to Japanese universities after consultation with university admissions boards.

(2) Students may also be selected from among those applicants who have already been admitted to a Japanese university. However, this is limited to either research students at graduate school level or to Japanese language/culture studies students at undergraduate level. The applicant should request a university in his/her native country to obtain the necessary recommendation from a Japanese university with which it has an exchange agreement. The Japanese university will then forward the recommendation to the Ministry of Education which will make a final selection of students to be awarded scholarships.

Table 1: Overview of the Conditions of Japanese Government Scholarship Students (As of 1989)

	Research Students	Teacher Trainee Students	Undergraduate Students	Japanese Language/Culture Studies Students	Technical College Students	Special Training School Students
Level	Graduate School level		Undergraduate level			
Qualification	B.A. degree	B.A. degree or equivalent	High school graduate or equivalent	Junior or senior year of undergraduate	High school graduate or equivalent	High school graduate or equivalent
Age	Less than 35		17 - 21	18 or over	17 - 21	18 - 21
Term	2 years including Japanese language study	1.5 years including Japanese language study	5 years including Japanese language study (medical student - 7 yrs)	1 year	3.5 yrs incl. Japanese lang. study (mercantile course: 4 years)	2.5 years including Japanese language study
Japanese Language Study	6 months (at Osaka Univ. of Foreign Studies or other 9 univ.) Not necessary for those who are fluent in Japanese language		1 year (at Tokyo Univ. of Foreign Studies)	Not applicable	6 months (at Kokusai Gakuyuukai)	6 months (at Bunka Gaigo Special Training School)
Professional Study	To undertake study in graduate school	To have special seminars in education department	To undertake study in undergraduate courses	To take special courses on Japanese language or Japanese affairs	To join the third year of technical college	To take professional courses in special training school
Countries to be invited	Worldwide (101 countries & areas)	Developing countries (16 countries)	Developing countries (15 countries)	Worldwide (25 countries & areas)	Developing countries (9 countries)	Developing countries (12 countries & areas)
Tuition/Fees	National University Students: Free Public & Private University Students: Paid by the Ministry of Education					
Travel Expenses	Round trip air ticket to be provided					
Field Trip Expenses	Maximum of ¥40,000 per year for all students		Maximum of ¥40,000 for 4th year students	Maximum of ¥40,000 per year for all students	-	-
Outfit Allovance	¥25,000 for each student					
Housing subsidy	¥9,000 or ¥12,000 per month (also at the time of rent ¥50,000 for 'reikin' and ¥50,000 for deposit to be loaned)					
Medical subsidy	80% of actual medical fees					

(3) If a student is already attending a Japanese university, it is possible to obtain a recommendation from the university for a scholarship. Applicants must be on a Master's degree program, a course of study leading to a doctorate, or in the final year of undergraduate study. Similarly, only those who are able to show academic excellence are selected. The university selects applicants to be recommended to the Ministry of Education. The Ministry of Education awards scholarships on the basis of the decision of the selection committee.

Table 2: Process of Recruitment and Acceptance of Japanese Government Scholarship Students

Process	Organizations in Charge
Recruitment	Japanese Embassies/Consulates and Foreign Governments
↓	
First Selection	Japanese Embassies/Consulates and Foreign Governments
↓	
Second Selection	Japanese Ministry of Education in consultation with Japanese Universities
↓	
Immigration	Japanese Ministry of Justice Japanese Ministry of Education Japanese Embassies/Consulates
↓	
(Coming to Japan)	
Japanese Language Study	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (undergraduate students) ↑ Osaka University of Foreign Studies and others (Research students)
↓	Japanese language schools AIEJ
Professional Study	Universities and others
↓	↓
(Return to home country)	
Aftercare	Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) Universities, etc.

Table 3: Procedures of Recruitment and Acceptance of Japanese Government Scholarship Students

Schedule (coming to Japan in)		Procedure
Oct. of that year or Jan. of the following year	Apr. or Oct. of the following year	
February		Applicant for status of research students, Japanese language/culture research students requests recommendation
Late April	Late May	Ministry of Education sends application form to Japanese Embassies
End of April		Ministry of Education accepts university recommendations for October arrivals
May	June - Sep.	Japanese Embassies recruit applicants
Early June		Ministry of Education makes selection of applicants (university recommendations)
Mid-June		Japanese Embassies make first selection of applicants and send recommendations to Ministry of Education
Mid-July		Ministry of Education makes selection of applicants (Embassy recommendations)
	Aug. - Oct.	Japanese Embassies make first selection of applicants and send recommendations to Ministry of Education
Early Oct.		Students come to Japan
Mid-Oct.		Ministry of Education accepts university recommendations for January arrivals
	Nov.	Ministry of Education makes selection of applicants (Research students get Embassy recommendations: tentatively accepted until university is assigned)
	Dec. - March	University assignment for research students (Embassy recommendation)
Jan.		Students come to Japan
	Feb.	Ministry of Education makes selection of applicants living in Japan and/or those requesting extension of term
	April or Oct.	Students come to Japan

Note: Schedule for coming to Japan :

- Japanese language/culture studies students, teacher trainee students, technical college students and special training school students: October of the year when the selection is made.
- Undergraduates: April of the following year.
- Research students: April or October of the following year. Students with university recommendation to come in October of the year or January of the following year.

Selection of University

Prior to arrival in Japan, the student should know what and where he/she intends to study. Thus, it is vital that students obtain information on courses of study offered by various higher education institutions including undergraduate courses and graduate schools in Japan. Documentation in both English and Japanese on higher education in Japan, as well as lists of universities and schools are available at Japanese Embassies or Consulates. Moreover, the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) publishes an excellent guide in English to Japanese universities entitled, *Japanese Universities and Colleges, 1989 - A Guide to Institutions of Higher Education in Japan* (Maruzen Co. Ltd., Tokyo, 1989). The Association also publishes other useful pamphlets such as *Student Guide to Study in Japan* and *ABCs of Study in Japan*. Further, the Overseas Study Information Center established by the Association provides students with various kinds of information on request. Most universities also make English and/or Japanese catalogues or guidance materials available as well.

Table 4: Total Number of Higher Education Institutions (As of May 1988)

	Institutions	Full-time Teachers	Students
Technical Colleges	62	3,881	50,934
Junior Colleges	571	19,264	450,436
Universities	490	118,513	1,994,616
Special Training schools	3,191	28,780	699,534
Miscellaneous schools	3,685	20,106	451,988

Immigration and Residential Qualifications

A foreign student may legally reside in Japan after obtaining a Certificate of Residence in Japan issued by the Immigration Office of the Ministry of Justice. This certificate may be granted by one of the following methods:

(1) The student applies to the Japanese Embassy or Consulate for a Cer-

tificate of Residence in Japan along with a visa (application made by the student himself/herself).

(2) The student's guarantor, who must be resident in Japan, makes an application on behalf of the student to a local immigration office (application made by the student's guarantor).

(3) In the case of a student already resident in Japan, he/she can apply to the local immigration office for a change of status from non-student to student.

The status of foreign student is given to someone receiving education at one of the following types of educational institution: the period of education can be six months or one year.

(1) A Japanese university or institution equivalent to this (for example, an institution of higher education established by an agency other than the Ministry of Education, such as the Defense Academy, Fishery Academy, etc.);

(2) A special training school (to be registered on a specialist course);

(3) An institution providing education aimed at securing entry into a Japanese university for those who have completed 12 years of education overseas (three institutions including the International Student Association Japanese language school and the Japanese language school attached to the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies); and

(4) A technical college.

In order to secure the status of foreign student, the following conditions must also be fulfilled.

(1) Possession of funds, either in the form of a scholarship or from some other source, sufficient to defray the costs of living and studying in Japan for the expected period. Proof of possession of such funds must be provided in the form of cash or of a statement from a bank or equivalent institution certifying possession of the necessary funds. However, in the event of a guarantor being available, such proof is not required.

(2) In the case of a research or auditing student, i.e. not a full-course student, attendance at the educational institution, after obtaining entry permission on the basis of having completed selection and entry procedures, of 10 or more hours a week.

(3) In the case of someone wishing to enroll on a specialist course at a special training school, fulfillment of the following three conditions:

a) Study of the Japanese language for 6 months or more at a Japanese language educational institution accredited by the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ), and designated in a notification of the Ministry of Justice, or a pass at First or Second Level in the Test of Japanese Language Ability, adminis-

tered by the AIEJ and the Japan Foundation, or attendance at a Japanese school (excluding kindergarten) for one year or more;

b) Possession of the intention on the part of the student to take up on return to his/her own country employment for which the skill or knowledge gained on the specialist course in the special training school is a necessary requirement; and

c) Presence in the special training school of a full-time member of staff with responsibility for giving advice and guidance to foreign students.

Someone who intends to receive education at a Japanese upper secondary school, or on an upper secondary course or general course at a special training school, or at a miscellaneous school, is put in a separate category from that of foreign student and given a separate residential status. In this case, the period of stay in Japan may be three months, six months or a year.

In the case of someone with this status who is exclusively receiving education in the Japanese language (for the purpose of preparing for entry to a Japanese university or equivalent institution), the institution must be the one approved by the Association of International Education, Japan, as described in (3) a) above.

Japanese Language Study and Pre-College Education

Foreign students who wish to study in Japan should possess some knowledge of the Japanese language. For example, a high level of Japanese proficiency is generally required for students wishing to study, at undergraduate level; the necessary level of proficiency in Japanese will depend upon the choice of the major field.

Foreign students may embark on a program of Japanese language study either before or after enrollment at a university. Prior to enrollment at a university, scholarship students may study Japanese language at Foreign Student Education Centers established at several public universities. Non-scholarship students can take Japanese courses at institutions for Japanese language study ("*Ryugakusei Bekka*") which are affiliated to universities, or at private Japanese language schools.

After enrollment at a university, students may take Japanese language and/or Japanese affairs courses. Extra-curricular courses are also available for foreign students who wish to improve their Japanese language proficiency.

The number of private Japanese language schools in Japan is estimated at more than several hundreds; however, the schools cover a wide range of quality in terms of standards and facilities. Some schools are reliable with established records of excellence in teaching, while other schools are ill-equipped to meet the challenge of teaching Japanese to foreign students due to inadequate classroom facilities, unqualified faculty, and badly thought out curricula. Therefore, students should carefully select a language school prior to registration. In December 1988, the Ministry of Education issued a document entitled "*Standards of Japanese Language Institutions*" and it is ex-

pected that those schools which do not meet the standards set forth in it will either attempt to improve and upgrade their programs or cease future operations.

In the following year, the Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education was established and carried out an inspection of educational standards and other conditions in Japanese language educational institutions with reference to the above-mentioned criteria set out by the Ministry of Education; by June 1990, 344 schools were approved. Details of these schools can be found in the " Handbook of Japanese Language Educational Institutions", published by the Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education.

Application and Selection Procedure for Non-Scholarship Students

In the case of scholarship students, the Ministry of Education reviews each student's request to attend a particular university with the university staff, and decides which university a student will ultimately attend. Non-scholarship students, on the other hand, apply directly to the university of their choice. The following selection procedures are typical:

(1) A student applies directly to a university in Japan. If accepted, the student will begin his/her study in Japan.

(2) The student initially takes pre-college or private Japanese language courses at a college or at a private school, and after completing one year of preparatory study, he/she applies to a university.

Application deadlines, tuition fees, other expenses, examination subjects, and test procedures vary from university to university. For additional information, *A Guide to Universities for Non-Scholarship Students* published by the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) is recommended.

The AIEJ administers the "Japanese Proficiency Tests for Foreigners (1st through 4th levels)" and the "Standard Tests for Non-Scholarship Foreign Students". Most universities consider the results of the "Japanese Proficiency Test (1st level)" and the "Standard Tests" in selecting applicants. Due to the fact that applicants are often required to take these tests, it is important that they check the requirements for application in the above-mentioned guidebook.

Students may take the "Japanese Proficiency Test" outside of Japan which is jointly administered by the AIEJ and the Japan Foundation, however, the "Standard Test" is administered only in Japan. Both tests are administered in December.

Educational Program

University lectures are normally given in Japanese. There are some universities and graduate schools which offer lectures in English, but they are exceptional. English technical terms, however, are frequently used in class and some professors specializing in science and engineering are able to

give lectures in English. Thus, proficiency in both English and Japanese is expected of foreign students if they are to understand lectures at Japanese universities.

The teaching methods used in Japan vary from those used in other countries. In Japan, most universities offer lectures attended by a large number of students rather than seminars in which the class size is smaller. Professors do not usually make individual contact with students unless specifically requested. This lack of personal contact with instructors has often made foreign students feel uneasy in terms of assessing their progress in course work.

Due to the fact that few students attend graduate school in Japan, advanced degrees at Master's and Doctoral level are not considered as essential as in other countries. This is more the case among students majoring in the humanities and social sciences than among those majoring in science and engineering. For students on a Master's degree program, earning a Master's degree is assured as long as they complete the curriculum. However, for those students studying for a Doctorate, especially in the humanities and social sciences, a Ph.D. degree is not easy to earn, even if they complete the required curriculum. The number of students who receive doctorates is higher among foreign students than among Japanese students. Some graduate schools accept theses written in English or other foreign languages. Special adjustments may be made for foreign students who wish to earn graduate degrees in Japan.

Scholarships

Due to various factors, including the rise in value of the Japanese yen against all other foreign currencies, living expenses of foreign students studying in Japan have increased remarkably. The Ministry of Education has taken certain measures to remedy the situation. For example, the number of scholarship students has been increased and programs of exemption from tuition fees have been expanded. In addition, the number of students who receive research subsidies has been substantially increased.

Current financial assistance programs implemented for non-scholarship foreign students are as follows (data is subject to change as these programs expand):

* University Scholarship Funds - Established by public and private universities; 82 funds are now provided for 1,097 students.

* Local Government Scholarships - Offered by 12 local governments; amounts vary between ¥5,000 and ¥80,000 per month; 2,077 students.

* Private Associations - Established by 88 associations; amounts vary between ¥10,000 and more than ¥100,000 per month; 2,441 students.

* AIEJ Scholarships - established by the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) with the assistance of the Japanese government; ¥45,000 per month for undergraduates and ¥65,000 for graduate students; 3,7500 students (2,700 undergraduates including 150 junior college stu-

dents and 150 special training school students, and 1,000 graduate students).

Tuition, Fees, and Exemption Programs

In the case of public universities, tuition fees are fixed at the same level for all universities by the government. Fees of private universities, however, vary from one to another, and according to the department or major field of study undertaken by the student. To study at a private university costs approximately twice as much as at a public university.

While scholarship students are exempt from having to pay these fees, non-scholarship students are not. However, measures have been taken to reduce the fees for regular students formally enrolled on undergraduate or graduate courses at university or in junior colleges. Conditions differ slightly as between national and private universities, but in the case of national universities, fees may be either reduced to half or zero for a set percentage of students, including Japanese students.

Many private universities have also been reducing their tuition fees by 30% for foreign students; the difference is borne by the Japanese government through the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ).

Housing

Most foreign students live in private rooms or apartments off campus. The availability of affordable housing in Japan is severely limited. Rents are extremely high in major cities and outlying areas. Furthermore, it is customary in Japan for a tenant to pay the equivalent of two months' rent as a non-refundable fee to the owner ("key money" or reikin) and pay another two months' rent as a refundable security deposit (shikikin). A student seeking private housing is thus faced at the outset with a sizable outlay of funds.

Under such difficult housing conditions, a number of options exist for the foreign student seeking accommodation:

(1) Housing provide by public and private universities: Most public universities have foreign student housing or international houses.

(2) Housing provided by public organizations and corporate associations: Government associations such as the Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) and other public organizations provide housing for foreign students. Corporate associations such as the Keizai-Doyukai encourage companies to offer their employee dormitories to accommodate foreign students. The government actively supports such activities by private organizations aimed at improving the housing situations for foreign students.

(3) Housing provided by local governments: Some municipal and prefectural as well as other official houses are provided for housing foreign students. Among other areas, Tokyo, Kanagawa, and Nagoya are proceeding with plans to establish housing for foreign students.

Medical Care

If a foreign student receives medical treatment at a hospital in Japan, 80% of the charges (calculated in accordance with health insurance regulations) is borne by the AIEJ.

Foreigners who plan to reside in Japan for more than one year must have National Health Insurance. This insurance covers 70% of medical charges. In addition, the Association will pay 80% of the balance which is not covered by the National Health Insurance. Thus, the foreign student need only pay 6% of the total cost of any medical treatment that is required.

The cost of premium for National Health Insurance depends on local government regulations; at present, 59% of all foreign students are covered by this insurance.

Jobs

Foreign students who need to find work in Japan must satisfy the following requirements in order to be able to work without special permission from the Ministry of Justice:

(1) The purpose of work is to earn educational fees or living expenses.

(2) Time spent working must not exceed 20 hours per week.

(3) The job is not subject to public morality regulations.

Students can find job listings at the Student Affairs Department of each university and at the Japanese and Foreign Students' Center has 11 offices in Japan.

Community Relations

Programs of short-term home stays and home visits for foreign students are frequently conducted by universities and international exchange associations in order to expand communications between students and the local community. The Rotary Club, Lions' Club and other local private associations plan various social events to facilitate relations between foreign students and their communities.

After-service for former Foreign Students

It is hoped that returning foreign students who have studied in Japan will make use of their knowledge and experience by playing leading roles in promoting understanding and cooperation between their countries and Japan. To further this goal, the Japanese government lends support to the following activities:

(1) Each university compiles lists of foreign students who have completed their studies along with their home addresses, and sends university

bulletins or other information to them periodically.

(2) The Association of International Education, Japan (AIEJ) provides free subscriptions on request to science journals, bulletins, and other publications which foreign students may need to continue their research in their major fields. This service is available for former students who are employed as teachers or scholars in their home countries. The duration of the subscription service is 3 years after return. For scholarship students from developing countries who are working in the field of education, engaged in academic research or administration, the Association pays travel and hotel expenses for returning to Japan to do short-term research. An applicant should be under 45 years of age with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a leader in his/her field of study. Furthermore, at least 5 years must have elapsed since the applicant's return to his/her country. The number of students estimated as having been accepted under this program is 21.

(3) The Japan Scholarship Association provides financial assistance to qualified students pursuing doctoral studies in Japan.

(4) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs looks after the interests of former foreign students who have studied in Japan. Japanese Embassies and Consulates organize reunions of former students from Southeast Asia who have previously studied in Japan.

(5) The International Exchange Fund provides former student groups from ASEAN countries with financial aid and meeting places.

Current Situation of Foreign Students in Japan

The total number of foreign students studying in Japan has increased remarkably in recent years. As of 1 May 1989, the number was 31,251. Figure 1 shows the dramatic increase of foreign students in the last 12 years.

The breakdown of scholarship students by educational level is shown in Figure 2. Graduate students make up 83.9% of scholarship students and undergraduates comprise only 12.3%. The percentages of technical college students and special training school students are 2.4% and 1.5%, respectively. When non-scholarship students are included, the number of undergraduates is 42.5%.

The breakdown of students by region is shown in Figure 3. The majority of scholarship students (27.3%) are from ASEAN countries, although ASEAN students only comprise 11.2% of the total number of foreign students, including both scholarship and non-scholarship students, in Japan. Most Asian students come from China, Taiwan, Republic of Korea and Malaysia as shown in Table 5.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of students by major fields of study. While scholarship students majoring in science, engineering, agriculture, and medicine predominate, if one looks at the total there is still a significant number of students in the humanities and social sciences.

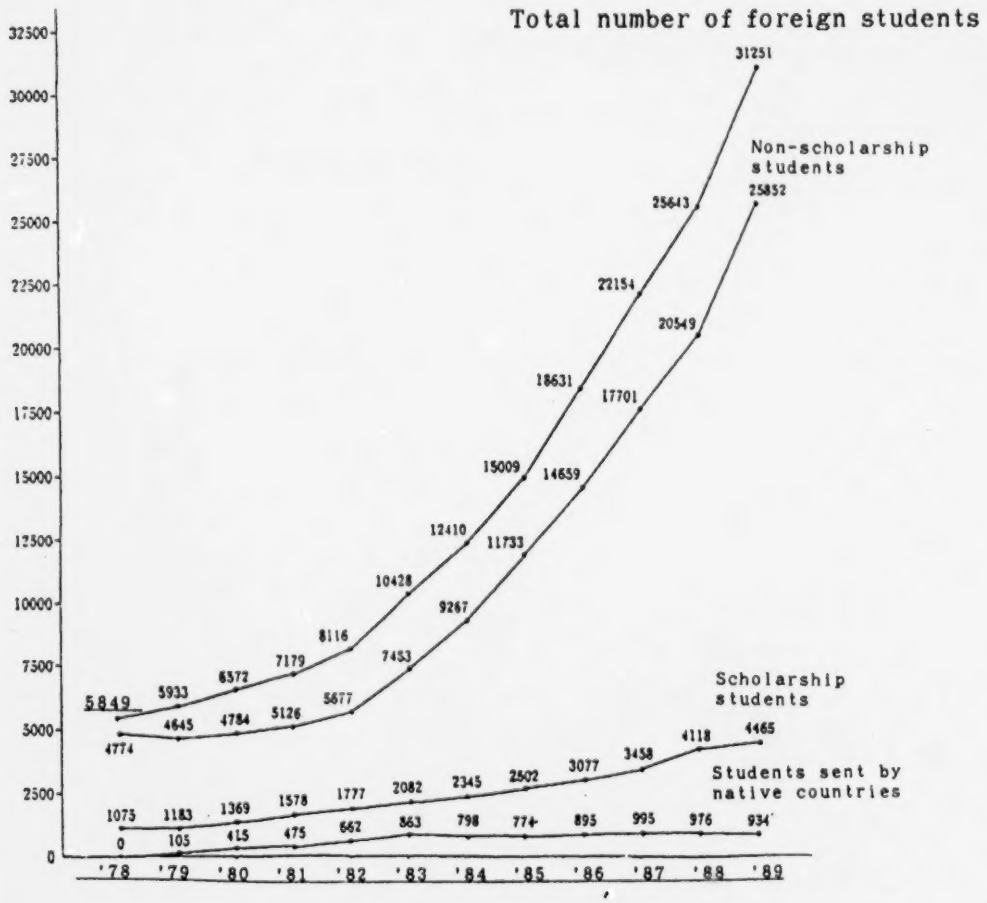

Figure 1: Number of Foreign Students

Remarks:

- Figures present as of May of each year.
- Foreign students sent by native countries present China, Malaysia, Indonesia.

Increasing Rate of Foreign Students compared to each previous year

Year	Increase
1985	20.9%
1986	24.1
1987	18.9
1988	15.7
1989	21.9

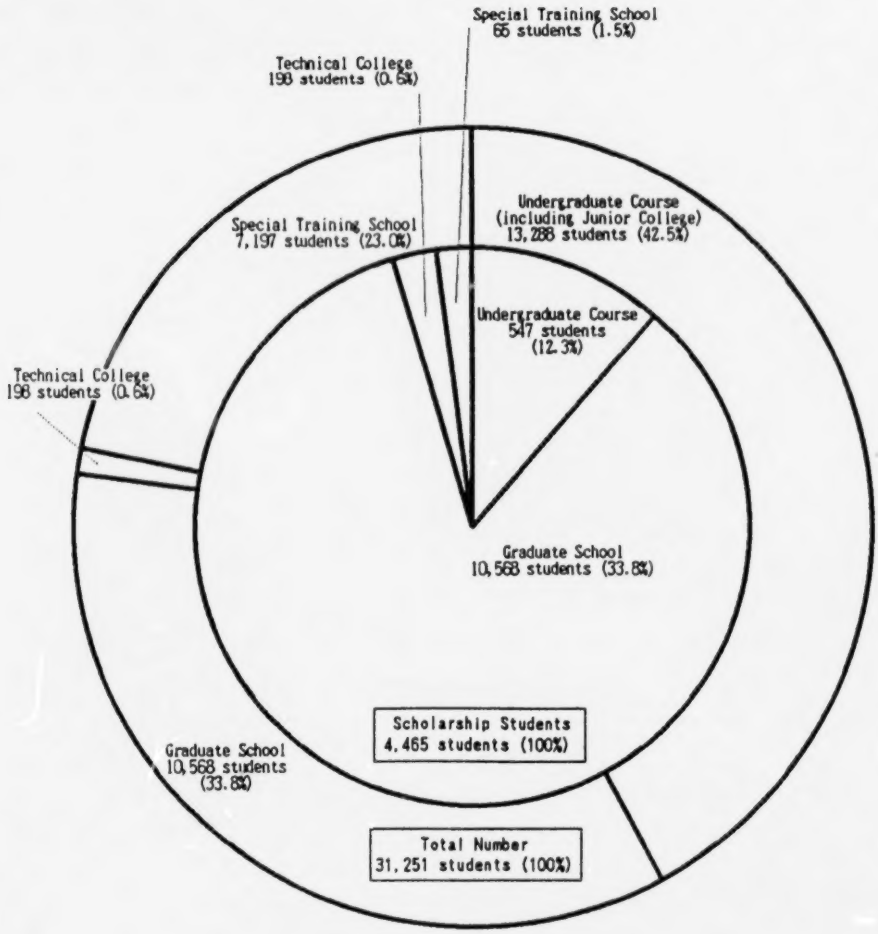

Figure 2: Breakdown of Students by Level (Figures as of May 1989)

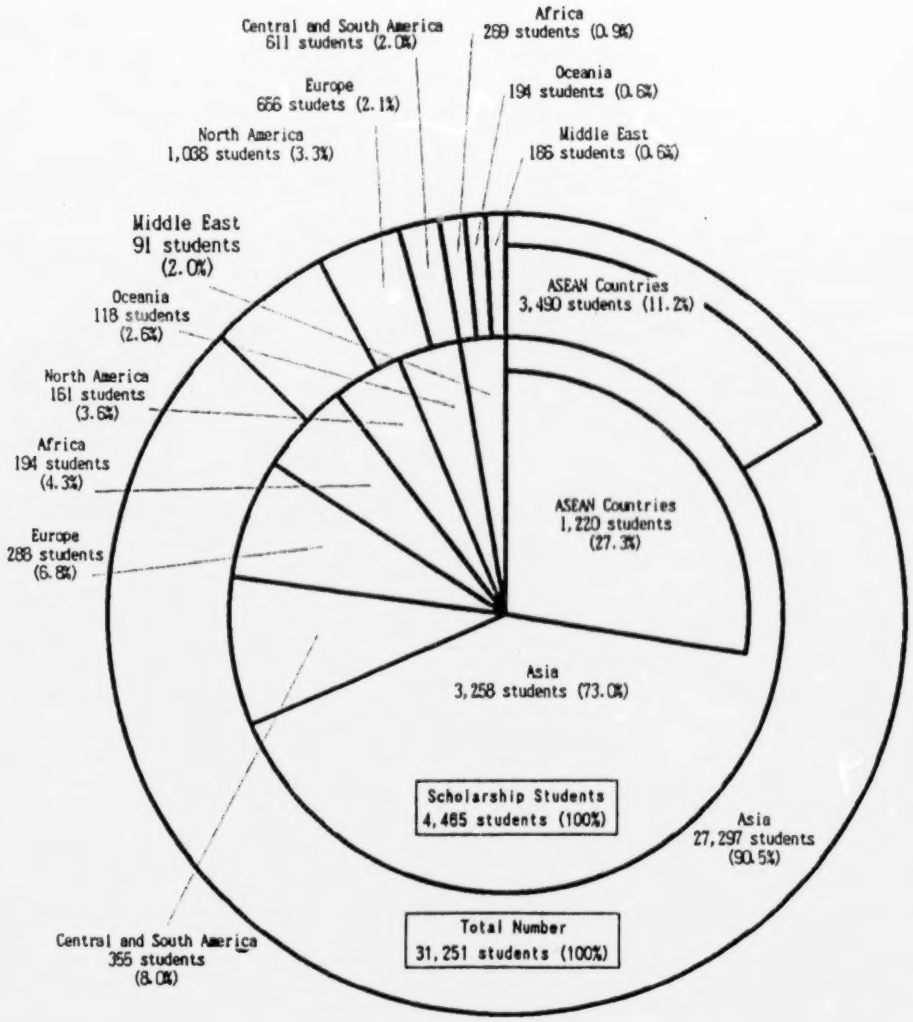

Figure 3: Breakdown of Students by Region (Figures as of May 1989)

Table 5: Number of Students by Country

Country	Number of students 1989	Number of students 1988	Rate of increase
China	10,850 (1,028)	7,708 (894)	40.8%
Korea	6,575 (637)	5,260 (636)	25.0
Taiwan	6,063 (-)	5,693 (-)	6.5
Malaysia	1,310 (232)	1,201 (197)	9.1
U.S.A	961 (133)	964 (123)	- 0.2
Thailand	831 (418)	753 (386)	10.4
Indonesia	824 (282)	671 (234)	22.8
Hong Kong	618 (48)	428 (37)	44.4
Philippines	413 (243)	339 (228)	21.8
Brazil	293 (143)	268 (126)	9.3
Others	2,513 (1,301)	2,358 (1,257)	6.6
Total	31,251 (4,465)	25,643 (4,118)	21.9

( ): indicates those scholarship students.

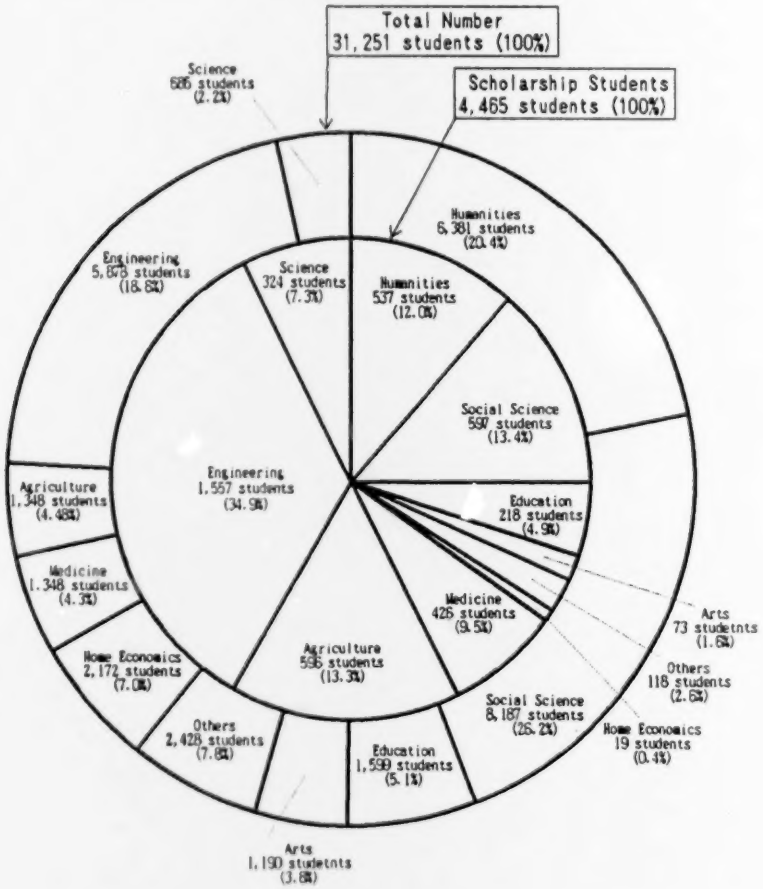

Figure 4: Breakdown of Students by Major (Figures as of May 1989)